

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT RUNNING START FOR THE 2026–27 SCHOOL YEAR?

READ THIS FIRST!

Hello Parents and Students in the Class of 2027 & 2028!

Many students have questions about Running Start. At this time, individual appointments are **not** being scheduled to discuss this option. Students should begin by reviewing information directly from the college they are considering.

Closest programs to LHS:

- Bellevue College
- Green River College
- Renton Technical College
- Central Washington University – Sammamish

Please review each college's website for the most current information and deadlines.

Important:

Students should register for a **full schedule at LHS**, even if planning to participate in Running Start. It is much easier to drop LHS classes later than to add them if plans change.

Running Start requires strong independence and the ability to manage college enrollment and coursework on your own.

--Liberty High School Counseling Department

WHAT DO YOU DO NOW?

1. Read all attached information carefully.
2. Attend a virtual orientation at your chosen college.
3. Apply and enroll at the college.
4. Complete placement (test or transcript submission).
5. Schedule an appointment using your counselor's Calendly (have placement results ready).

HELPFUL LINKS:

- Bellevue College: www.bellevuecollege.edu/runningstart
- Green River College: www.greenriver.edu/students/academics/running-start

- Renton Technical College: www.rtc.edu/running-start
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THINGS TO CONSIDER

Running Start is best for students who are:

- Highly organized and self-motivated
- Strong readers, writers, and test-takers
- Comfortable advocating for themselves

College grading is typically based on a small number of major exams or papers. Homework may not be graded, but is necessary to succeed. Late work is rarely accepted.

Students are treated as college students. Professors do not adjust expectations because you are in high school. The average age at community colleges is around 30. Most students have jobs and busy schedules.

Successful Running Start students usually:

- Have a clear academic goal
- Commit to full-time enrollment
- Understand this is a year-long commitment

Additional Considerations:

- Students who “try it out” without a clear plan often find balancing two schools difficult.
 - You begin a permanent college transcript.
 - Credit transfer varies by college (especially out-of-state/private).
 - Reliable transportation is required.
 - Only tuition is covered. Books, fees, parking, and transportation are your responsibility.
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FERPA (STUDENT PRIVACY LAW)

All college students, including Running Start students, are protected under FERPA.

This means:

- Professors cannot discuss grades or coursework with parents.
 - Parents cannot schedule conferences or file grade appeals.
 - Students must handle all communication directly.
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A note from Bellevue College:

Please communicate with all staff and instructors at Bellevue College in a mature non-threatening manner.

- The running start students need to follow the same rules and regulations that all Bellevue College students follow.
- Choosing to do running start is a choice not a requirement.

- College coursework is faster paced. Many students who are an A student in high school may not earn As at the college level.
- Each course syllabus needs to be carefully reviewed.
- Late work is almost never allowed by the instructors – do not expect approval if asked.
- Check the academic calendar each quarter for all important dates – this will include information like last day to enroll and last day a student may drop a class.

Under FERPA, instructors cannot communicate with anyone but the student about the student's course work or grades. This is a federal law to which Bellevue College must legally adhere. It does not matter if the student is a minor and a Running Start student; all students taking college courses are considered adults and FERPA applies to all.

Parents cannot schedule conferences with the instructor, file a grade appeal on a student's behalf, or communicate details about a grade appeal or complaint. The student is responsible for all communication regarding course work, grades, and appeals or complaints.

Here are some important guidelines to keep in mind about FERPA and instructor-parent communication:

- Instructors and other college staff **cannot** communicate with parents about a student's educational records in person, via email, or by phone.
- Grade appeals and student complaints **must** be handled by the student and communicated by the student to the instructor, department chair, or dean.
- Parents **should not** come to the instructor's classroom or office in hopes of discussing a student's work.

For additional Bellevue College questions: linda.kepler@bellevuecollege.edu

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I sign up?

Apply directly to the college and follow their deadlines.

What classes should I take?

First priority: meet LHS graduation requirements.

Second priority: meet college degree requirements.

Can I do both LHS and Running Start?

Yes. Students may enroll full- or part-time but must maintain full-time status overall. College and high school calendars do not align.

How many credits can I take?

If taking no LHS classes, Running Start covers up to 21 credits per quarter. Additional credits require payment.

2026–27 RUNNING START PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

By signing, students and parents acknowledge:

- Students follow all college rules and policies.
- Students are responsible for tracking graduation requirements and deadlines.
- College and high school calendars differ.
- Participation is a year-long commitment.
- Only 100-level (or above) courses are tuition-covered.
- Books and fees are the student's responsibility.
- Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA.
- All grades become part of permanent HS and college transcripts.
- Students must obtain counselor approval before dropping RS classes.
- Credit transfer varies by college.
- Students with IEP/504 plans must notify the college.
- Athletic eligibility depends on WIAA standards.

***Signatures confirm understanding of all expectations.*

We have read the Agreement for Participation in Running Start and understand all requirements.

Student name (print clearly)

Student signature

Date

Parent/Guardian name (print clearly)

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND PLAN REQUIREMENTS

I understand that by taking classes through the Running Start Program, I might not be enrolled in courses at Liberty High School where the High School and Beyond graduation requirements and lessons might be explained or completed.

Students in Running Start are still responsible for:

Juniors

- Completing 11th grade Xello lessons by the end of junior year
- Monitoring College & Career Center communications, including responding to emails

Seniors

- Completing 12th grade Xello lessons by January 31st
- Attending Senior Exit Interview (usually the 3rd Wednesday in March)
- Monitoring College & Career Center communications, including responding to emails
- Meeting all graduation deadlines (including completing Xello lessons and Senior Exit Interview)

Failure to complete these requirements may result in not graduating or participating in commencement.

For questions contact the College & Career Center at LHSCollegeandCareer@issaquah.wednet.edu

Student Signature

Date

Student Personal Email Address (PRINT CLEARLY)

Student Cell phone

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent Email Address (PRINT CLEARLY)

Parent Telephone

WASHINGTON GRADUATION TESTING REQUIREMENTS

NOTE: Assessment requirements are subject to change at the direction of the State of Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Refer to the OSPI website for the most up to date information about graduation testing requirements and approved alternatives.

Running Start does **not** exempt students from state testing.

Students must:

- Take/Pass SBA ELA and SBA Math
- Retake if necessary, during LHS testing windows
- Complete approved alternatives (SAT/ACT) if applicable

Failure to meet testing requirements may delay graduation.

If SBA Math or ELA is not passed, it is strongly recommended students remain enrolled at LHS for those courses.

I understand that if I do not meet the passing score for a graduation requirement test, I must **retake** that test during the testing window at Liberty High School until I get a passing score or fulfill the requirement through an approved alternative (such as a passing score on the SAT or ACT). I understand that doing so may cause me to miss classes in my Running Start Program and could adversely affect the grades in those classes.

I understand that if I have **not** passed SBA Math, it is **STRONGLY** recommended that I take math at LHS and not via the Running Start Program.

I understand that if I have **not** passed SBA ELA, it is **STRONGLY** recommended that I take all classes at LHS and not participate in the Running Start Program.

I take full responsibility for understanding and completing all LHS graduation requirements, including the Washington graduation testing requirements. I understand that not doing so could jeopardize my graduation status.

Student

Date

I, the parent/guardian, am aware that it is my son or daughter's responsibility to complete the Washington graduation testing requirements as noted above.

Parent/Guardian

Date

SBA ELA and SBA Math First Attempt:

- Spring of 10th Grade

Passing Scores:

- SBA ELA: 2548 or higher
- SBA Math: 2595 or higher

Testing Windows for Retakes in
Fall/Spring of 11th/12th Grade

Alternative to SBA ELA Retake:

- SAT with Essay score of 410 or higher
- ACT with Writing score of 14 or higher

Alternative to SBA Math Retake:

- SAT score of 430 or higher
- ACT score of 16 or higher

BELLEVUE COLLEGE CREDIT CONVERSION

College to HS credit:

6 credits = 1.25 HS

5 credits = 1.0 HS

4 credits = .75 HS

2-3 credits = .5 HS

Only 100-level and above courses are tuition-funded.

English

English 11: ENGL&101

English 12: ENGL&101.

If ENGL&101 was already completed:

- Any course in the English (ENGL) department at or above the 100-level, with the following EXCEPTIONS: ENG105, 180, 190, 299, or any Independent Studies or Special Topics courses.
- CMST 141

Social Studies

NW Studies: HIST&214 (generally offered only once a year)

World History: HIST 101, HIST 102, HIST 103 (pick any **one** of these three for **1.0** world credit)

US History: HIST&146, HIST&147, HIST&148 (pick any **one** of these three)

Civics: POLS&202

Math

For information on placing into BC Math classes, visit: <https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/testing/placement/>

Any course in the Mathematics (MATH) department at or above the 100-level is accepted for Math credit (excluding any Independent Studies or Special Topics courses).

Running Start tuition only covers college-level coursework (100-level or above). HS level courses below the 100 level (like Alg 2) are not covered by Running Start, and should be taken at the high school. After consultation and approval from a counselor, families can opt to pay tuition for HS level classes at BC. **NOTE:** a 5-credit BC below 100 level earns .5 credit on HS transcript, rather than 1.0 credit.

High School Level Math at BC:

Math 085 = .5 Alg1

Math 098 = sem 1 of Alg2

Math 099 = sem 2 of Alg2

Note: no BC classes are equivalent to Geometry or Personal Finance

Consult with your counselor.

Science

Classes in the following departments are accepted for Science credit (excluding any Independent Studies or Special Topics courses), and any 6-credit classes in these departments meet the Lab Science requirement:

- Astronomy (ASTR), Biology (BIOL), Botany (BOTAN), Chemistry (CHEM), Environmental Science (ENVS), Geology (GEOL), Meteorology (METR), Nutrition (NUTR), Oceanography (OCEA), Physics (PHYS)

Additionally, these SPECIFIC classes are accepted for Science, with Lab Science classes indicated with (L):

- ANTH: 205, 215(L), GEOG: 108, 205, 206(L), PSYC: 202

World Language For BC's World Language Dept FAQ, please visit:

<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/worldlanguages/faq/>

Bellevue College offers courses in Arabic, ASL, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish

- Course codes marked 121 = first year, 122 = second year, 123 = third year, 221 = fourth year

Health: HLTH250

*While Health can be taken at BC, due to the sensitive nature of the content, and potential to share class time with adult students in a college setting, students/families may want to pursue Health through a high school class to ensure coursework and an environment conducive to learn about teenage health issues. **NOTE:** there is no opt-out component for the HIV/AIDS section of Health 250 at BC, and students will not receive CTE credit for this course.*

Physical Education

Classes in the following departments are accepted for PE (excluding any Independent Studies or Special Topics courses):

- Dance (DANCE), Physical Education (PE, RECED)

Art

Classes in the following departments are accepted for Art credit (excluding any Independent Studies or Special Topics courses):

- Art (ART), Dance (DANCE), Drama (DRMA), and MUSIC (MUSC) department classes

Additionally, the following specific course codes are accepted for Art credit:

- **DMA;** 103, 104, 125, 126, **INDES;** INDES167, INDES171

Career Tech Ed (CTE)

Classes in the following departments are accepted for CTE (excluding any Independent Studies or Special Topics courses):

- Accounting (ACCT), Allied Health (AHE, AHEA, AHEE, AHEL, AHEM, AHEP), American Sign Language (ASL), Business (BA, BUSIT, BUS, BTS), Computer Science (CS), Criminal Justice (CJ), Database Admin (DBA), Digital Media Arts (DMA), Education (ECED, EDUC), Economics (ECON), Engineering (ENGR), Imaging (IMAGE), Info Technology (IT), Interior Design (INDES), Marketing (MKTG), Network Services (NSCOM), Software Development (DEV, previously PROG), Technical Support (TECH)

Additionally, the following specific course codes are accepted for CTE credit:

- **ART:** 108, 150, 151, 154, 254; **CES241;** **CMST:** 131, 132, 136, 141, 143, 144, 146, 161, 260; **HD:** 173, 180; **HLTH:** 145, 260, 262, 290, 292; **INTST:** 150, 201; **MUSC:** 156, 157, 158; **NUTR100;**

Elective Credit

Any course taken through Running Start will count toward a student's total high school credits to graduate. Any Running Start course not listed above will count toward elective credit needed to graduate. Any course listed above that a student takes after already meeting the related subject area credit requirement (coursework they pursue above and beyond the minimum required to graduate) will also count toward elective credit needed to graduate.

**PLACEMENT OPTIONS FOR RUNNING START -
BELLEVUE COLLEGE**

English and Math Placements for BC:

- Request your transcript from Parchment to send to YOUR email (NOT to Bellevue College!).
- Once you receive the transcript, go to BC's Placement & Testing Page on the website.
- Upload your transcript on this page and ask for English and Math placements.
- Wait for the email from BC indicating your English and Math placements.
- Email your Counselor with your placements – **you are NOW READY to get your EVF signed!**

For English placement, students may take the ACCUPLACER standardized exam, or use one of the other available options, which includes:

- o High School transcript, current copy with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher
- o Smarter Balanced Language Art score of 3 or 4, may be used for Running Start students
- o Appropriate scores on AP or IB exams, less than two years old
- o Placement from another Washington State Community or Technical college (reciprocity), less than two years old

We can use your high school transcript for English 101 placement if:

- Your high school is within the United States
- Your document clearly shows your name and all completed coursework to date
- You are a Running Start applicant and currently have 3.0 **cumulative** or greater grade point average

For Math placement, students may take ALEKS test

We can to use your high school transcript for MATH placements if:

- Your transcript is from one of the following school districts: Bellevue, Lake Washington, Snoqualmie Valley
- These 3 districts have worked with Bellevue College math department to create math placement agreements.
- Your completed coursework meets the grade criteria as stated in the "placement grids" you can find by clicking on the links below
- [Bellevue School District](#), [Lake Washington School District](#), [Snoqualmie Valley School District](#)
- Questions? 425-564-2243 or: testing@bellevuecollege.edu

